



MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Quarterly News

105 N. Sproul Rd., Broomall, PA 19008 • (610) 356-1098 • www.marplepres.org

January - March 2022

Topics

Hello Letter

Prayer and Devotional

Fellowship Activities and Events

Special Recognitions



Hello dear friends,

We hope that this newsletter finds you enjoying the refreshing warmth of Spring weather. The last few months have been relatively quiet, but we are slowly building back our in-person programming and are excited for activities and events to come along with warmer weather and lower Covid-19 transmission rates.

While cold weather and high transmission rates had us shift back to virtual programming in the early part of the year, we made the most of it by re-launching our *(Not So) Random Acts of Kindness*. Participating congregation members were given the name(s) of other members and chose to do something kind for them. There were some lovely lunches shared as well as homemade goodies and gifts exchanged.

Although virtual, we still enjoyed time together learning about photography, discussing books, and watching lectures together. *John Ehman* held an informative and engaging *two-part photography workshop* guiding us through the basic elements of what makes a good photo and giving us the chance to take photos of our own and discuss them. Next, after reading *The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown*, we contemplated our faith in light of topics covered in the book such as connection, creativity, empathy, and resilience. We also traveled back in time with *Kristen Mitchell (through a series of Great Courses lectures)* to enjoy the splendor of the Middle Ages and tour some of the grand cities of Medieval Europe. Exploring this history opened us to conversations about how Christianity and other religions shaped the societal structure, political hierarchies, architecture, and art in that time period.

If you missed any of these captivating conversations and wish to join us in the future, you're in luck because

we are excited to announce more events soon.

Our newest ministry here at the church, the *Pop-Up Thrift Shop*, has continued to be a successful event and a wonderful opportunity for people to buy or sell gently-used clothes and other items at a deep discount. After several local thrift stores closed in Delaware County, this ministry serves a great number of people in our local community. Volunteers to help run this event are always needed and very much appreciated. If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact the church office.

As we head into the warmer months, we are excited to have congregation members join us in-person for worship and fellowship events. *Mack Smith's "Noshing in the Narthex"* is back and he has some great snacks planned for us to share after worship on Sundays this season. We cannot wait to see you again soon!!

Peace in Christ,
Lesa Tanner

P.S. If you'd like to offer feedback or contribute to the newsletter, please let us know! You can reach out by email at marplepc@gmail.com or call the church office at **610-356-1098**.





Prayers

One of the ways deacons help to care for the congregation is by praying. We pay special attention each week to the Prayers of the People during the service and pray continually for the church. We also encourage you to reach out to us if you have any additional praises or concerns that we can be lifting up in prayer. Feel free to email marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or reach out to Pastor Karen and she can pass along your request.

Devotional

As you take time to deepen your relationship with God and continue your spiritual journey, we want to share some thoughtful devotionals that we appreciate and have found encouraging. Below is an excerpt from the **Our Daily Bread** devotional online.

Hope in Grief

We do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Scripture & Insight: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

As the cabbie drove us to London's Heathrow Airport,

he told us his story. He had come alone to the United Kingdom at age fifteen, seeking to escape war and deprivation. Now, eleven years later, he has a family of his own and is able to provide for them in ways unavailable in his native land. But he laments that he's still separated from his parents and siblings. He told us that he's had a hard journey that won't be complete until he's reunited with his family.

Being separated from our loved ones in this life is hard, but losing a loved one in death is much harder and creates a sense of loss that won't be made right until we're reunited with them. When the new believers at Thessalonica wondered about such losses, Paul wrote, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). He explained that as believers in Jesus, we can live in expectation of a wonderful reunion—together forever in the presence of Christ (v. 17).

Few experiences mark us as deeply as the separations we endure, but in Jesus we have hope of being reunited. And in the midst of grief and loss we can find the comfort we need in that enduring promise (v. 18). – *By: Bill Crowder*

Upcoming Fellowship Activities & Events

MAY 12 • 6pm – 7pm

Yoga Class | Memorial Hall

MAY 14 • 10:30am – 7pm

Hershey Park Trip
100 Hershey Park Dr.
Hershey, PA 17033

MAY 15 • 4pm – 7pm

Youth Group New Member Invitational
Rowland Room

MAY 17 • 6pm – 7pm

Yoga Class | Memorial Hall

MAY 21 • 10:30am – 4pm

Youth Confirmation Retreat | Library

MAY 26 • 6pm – 7pm

Yoga Class | Memorial Hall

JUNE 3 • 5pm – 8pm

Strawberry Festival | Fellowship Hall

JUNE 11

Memorial Celebration for Bill Triller

Visitation | Sanctuary 10am

Service | Sanctuary 11am



JUNE 20 • 2:30pm

Cooking for the Homeless | Fellowship Hall Kitchen

AUGUST 15-19 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Vacation Bible School

ONGOING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Joys & Concerns Chat

Zoom, Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday • 3PM

*Additional events will be coming to the calendar soon so keep your eyes on the weekly bulletin for more information!



Special Recognitions

• GRADUATIONS •

1. **Samantha Yakscoe**, Haverford High School
2. **Julia Eckels**, Ursinus College,
Communications and Media Studies
3. **Kimberly Wooden**, Harcum College,
Physical Therapy Assistant

CONGRATULATIONS!